IN THE SPECIFCIATION

Between line 2 and line 3 on page 1 (right below the title of invention), please insert the following new paragraph:

This application is a divisional application of, and claims the priority benefit of, U.S. patent application serial No. 10/424,650 filed on April 25, 2003, now allowed, which in turn claims the priority benefit of U.S. patent application serial No. 09/729,414 filed on December 4, 2000, now abandoned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 16 as follows:

In place of the above-mentioned determination circuit, an A/D converter for converting the output from the detector at every wavelength band component into a digital value may be used, and the decoder may be one which compares a ratio of a received light quantity of each color of emitted light, output from the A/D converter with a previously registered ratio of a received light quantity of the each color, and determines a bar color as a color having a closest ratio. As a result, [[a]] multicolored barcodes can be read by using the three monochromatic light sources.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 6 as follows:

A process for reading either the conventional monochromatic barcode or the color barcode of the invention is described in Fig. 7, for instance. This process will be described as part of the process executed by the determination circuit 17 and the decoder 18 of the reader shown in Fig. 4. First, a light receiving signal output from the amplifier 16 is processed based on a timesharing signal from the driving circuit 12 and the predetermined timing signal, to thereby determine whether or not each bar includes any of the three colors of R, G, and B (S1). Next, it is determined whether the color of each bar is white, black, red, green, or blue, based on the principle described hereinbefore with reference to Figs. 5 and 6 (S2). Then, it is determined whether or not all the bars or the bars in a specific range assume white or black, and based on a result of the determination, it is further determined whether or not the conventional JAN code is used. (S3). If the bars are displayed by the conventional JAN code, a JAN code interpretation

table is referred to (S4), whereas if they are displayed by the information code of the invention, an information code interpretation table of the invention is referred to (S5). Then, data represented by the bar code are decoded, followed by outputting digital data. In regard of this point, the determination as to whether the conventional JAN code is employed may be carried out to the entire information code or alternatively to each information unit, such as a commodity code out of the entire information code.